



COONEY STATE PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETINGS

AUGUST 18, 2010; FWP R5 HEADQUARTERS, BILLINGS, MT, 6:30-9PM

AUGUST 19, 2010; ROBERTS FIRE HALL, ROBERTS, MT, 6:30-9PM

Eighteen people attended and responded in small group formats to the three questions below. Attendees were asked to identify the five ideas most important personally, thus the number of “votes” per idea is in parenthesis (note that one person could vote for an idea more than once).

MEETING INPUT

1. What would you most like to see happen with the Park—what’s your vision?

Q1 – R5 Headquarters

- Accessibility to everyone (2)
- More trees and green shelter (3)
- Remote campground
- Marina
- Pave road to Red Lodge Campground
- Double boat ramp at Red Lodge (2)
- Handicap parking (2)
- Take out day use (1)
- More sandy beach on south shore (1)
- \$4 fee not fair to all users (2)
- Private road use on North Shore (1)
- More trees (fast growing) (3)
- More designated swimming areas (4)

Q1 – Roberts

- Public trail north side with picnic tables, tent camping, bikes, non-motorized (2)
- A lookout on North Shore Point
- Dump station (2)
- Playground on North Shore (2)
- Pave roads around lake for dust
- Stock fish (1)
- Install potable water station for public use for free (cistern fill) (1)
- More fish habitat (2)
- Preserve natural resources (1)
- Fishing (1)
- Quite the big place
- High-end buildings

- Nicer places around the lake in the area in general
- More overnight camping on North Shore
- More parking at North Shore boat ramp
- Better fishing (2)
- Additional boat ramp on North Shore (2)

2. What is most important to you about the Park? What do you want to make sure continues into the future?

Q2 – R5 Headquarters

- Fishing (3)
- Major maintenance improvements (2)
- More day use picnic areas/shelters (2)
- More respect
- Make designated camp area on Red Lodge Point
- More posted phone numbers (1)
- Life jacket loans (1)
- Fish cleaning station North Shore
- View + wildlife (4)

Q2 – Roberts

- Low noise pollution
- Keep bathrooms good clean and good smellin'
- Continue concessions (2)
- More trees (2)
- Current facilities maintained
- Add fish cleaning station on North Shore
- Keep power hookups (2)
- Better manager
- Good management
- Maintenance is good – roads, cleanliness
- Keep good open dialogue (1)
- Good communication with neighbors and water users (2)
- Continue to provide enforcement on lake particularly on weekends (1)

3. What are your concerns about the Park?

Q3 – R5 Headquarters

- Law enforcement on lake (5)
- Commercial sales using lake
- Reservation problems – release time (1)
- Boat regulations on dock itself (1)
 - ✓ Enforcement and education
 - ✓ Volunteers
 - ✓ Required safety courses (Jet skis)
- Crowding on lake and boat docks and day use (4)
- Litter (6)
- No wake on north side finger of lake west end

Q3 – Roberts

- Maintain ability to irrigate (4)
- Plow roads more often in the winter (1)
- Traffic on North Shore – straighten (poor visibility between boat dock & first bathroom)
- Pave roads around park
- More day use parking on north side
- Educate public to lake's responsibility to irrigators and local economy (primary reason for lake) (3)
- Weed controls (1)
- Wear and tear on dam riprap face (waves from boats) (4)
- Bad shower mats – holes hurt feet (1)
- Liability for recreationists on dam
- Overcrowding on water (2)
- Sandbars on Red Lodge Creek arm – should be marked no-wake zone (1)
- Jet ski/boaters use up Red Lodge arm (3)
 - ✓ Impact fishermen
 - ✓ Impacting bird life, wildlife
 - ✓ Impact fisheries spawning areas
- Jet ski use/traffic impact on other users
- Boat ramp use – better control, blocking ramp, moving too slow (1)
- Need better roads on south shore (1)
- OHV use to control weeds impacting vegetation